WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for implementing readout of a fingerprint, comprising:

a transparent base plate having a contact surface touched by a fingertip of a person;

a light source for irradiating the contact surface with light;

an equal magnification lens for forming an image of the fingerprint of the fingertip from reflected light in equal magnification;

an image sensor for detecting the fingerprint formed into an image by an image pickup surface composed of a plurality of photoreceptors linearly disposed thereon;

a base plate for holding the image sensor; and

a housing for fixing the transparent base plate, the light source, the equal magnification lens and the base plate.

2. An apparatus for implementing readout of a fingerprint according to claim 1, wherein the angle of reflection of the reflected light with respect to the fingerprint forming an image on the image pickup surface of the image sensor is larger than or approximately equal to the angle of incidence.

3. An apparatus for implementing readout of a fingerprint according to claim 1, wherein in the image pickup surface of the image sensor, a transverse length X corresponding to the row length is more

than ten times larger than a longitudinal length Y corresponding to the column length.

4. An apparatus for implementing readout of a fingerprint according to claim 1, wherein the light source is composed of LEDs of two colors or more.

5. An apparatus for implementing readout of a fingerprint according to claim 1, wherein the image pickup device is formed of amorphous silicon.

6. An apparatus for implementing readout of a fingerprint according to claim 1, wherein the angle of incidence of the irradiated light with respect to the fingerprint, is approximately equal to the angle of reflection of the reflected light with respect to the fingerprint forming the image on the image pickup surface of the image sensor, or the angle of incidence is smaller than the angle of reflection.